

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00915 011230Z  
ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 NSC-05  
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01  
ACDA-07 MC-02 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 ERDA-05 H-01  
FAA-00 DOTE-00 USIA-06 /090 W  
-----011243Z 021509 /53

R 011041Z JUN 77  
FM USINT BAGHDAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4622  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0915

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS IZ  
SUBJECT: U.S. ARMS SALES POLICY AND IRAQI MILITARY  
PRODUCTION

REF: (A) STATE 115244, (B) STATE 115406, (C) STATE  
115409

1. AS INSTRUCTED BY REFTELS, ACTING PRINCIPAL OFFICER  
PROVIDED FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE  
ANNOUNCEMENT ON U.S. ARMS POLICY. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION  
OF THIS SUBJECT ON MAY 29, DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN  
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AFFAIRS ANBARI EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN NEW POLICY IN  
VIEW OF MAJOR ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN USG AND  
SEVERAL OF IRAQ'S NEIGHBORS. HE WAS ALSO UNDERSTANDABLY  
INTERESTED IN HOW POLICY MIGHT AFFECT ISRAEL AND TENDED TO  
INTERPRET MY REMARKS, BASED ON DEPARTMENT'S TALKING POINTS,  
AS SUGGESTING NO CHANGE IN TRADITIONAL USG MILITARY  
SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP TO ISRAEL. ANBARI AGREED THAT

ANNOUNCEMENT WAS SIGNIFICANT AND SAID HE WOULD SEE THAT IT GOT ATTENTION FROM APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF GOI.

2. DAILY PAPERS OF FOLLOWING DAY (MAY 30) CONTAIN SUMMARY OF APRIL 12 REMARKS BY SADDAM HUSSEIN TO GOI PLANNING COMMITTEE WHICH INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF IRAQI ABILITY TO DEVELOP LOCAL ARMS INDUSTRY AND RATIONALE FOR CONTINUING TO RELY ON ARMS SUPPLIES FROM OTHER STATES (READ SOVIET UNION). HUSSEIN SEEMED TO BE RESPONDING TO CRITICS WHO WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE RAPID PROGRESS TOWARD ARMS SELF-SUFFICIENCY WITHIN THE PERIOD OF THE STILL UNPUBLISHED FIVE-YEAR PLAN. WE MUST INCLUDE IN OUR CALCULATION THE BASIC CENTRAL POINT THAT THE STATES WHICH ARE NOW AND WHICH WILL FOR SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE BE OUR ENEMIES OR OUR ADVERSARIES ARE ALLIES OR FRIENDS OF THE U.S. THE PRIMARY SOURCES, THEREFORE, FOR ARMING OURSELVES MUST BE ON AN EQUIVALENT LEVEL WITH THE UNITED STATES IN SCIENCE AND MILITARY TECHNOLOGY. FURTHERMORE, WE ARE UNABLE IN THE SPAN OF THIS PERIOD (FIVE YEARS?) TO MANUFACTURE ALL WHICH OUR ARMY REQUIRES OR TO DISPENSE WITH THE TIE WHICH WE HAVE IN CERTAIN AREAS WITH STATES CONSIDERED TO BE THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF ARMAMENTS FOR OUR ARMY. THIS IS BECAUSE THE STATES WHICH ARE NOW FIGHTING US OR WHICH ARE PROBABLY OPPONENTS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE ARE STATES FRIENDLY OR ALLIED TO THE U.S. AND FIGHTING IN THIS REGION ON ITS BEHALF."

3. COMMENT: TIMING OF PUBLICATION OF HUSSEIN'S REMARKS IS PROBABLY RELATED LESS TO THEIR SUBSTANCE THAN TO DESIRE  
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OF REGIME TO REMIND THE PUBLIC OF HUSSEIN'S CONTINUED PROMINENCE, DESPITE HIS CONVALESCENCE. PUBLISHED EXCERPTS COVER A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS AND PRESS HAS HIGHLIGHTED SECTION OTHER THAN THOSE ON MILITARY POLICY. HIS REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE, NONETHELESS, MOST INTERESTING AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF IRAQI PARANOIA ABOUT THREATS FROM ITS NEIGHBORS.. "PRESENT ENEMIES" MUST REFER TO ISRAEL AND SYRIA, BUT EVEN SIMPLEST BAGHDADI IS AWARE THAT LATTER GETS ITS ARMS FROM SOVIET UNION, NOT U.S. AMONG "PROBABLE FUTURE ENEMIES" WE JUDGE IRAN TO BE MOST LIKELY BOGEYMAN, DESPITE APPARENTLY SINCERE EFFORTS ON BOTH SIDES TO MAINTAIN PRESENT DETENTE. IT IS ALSO NOT SURPRISING THAT HUSSEIN WOULD RAISE THE SPECTER OF USG ENMITY VIA ITS SURROGATES IN THE AREA. THIS IS CENTRAL TO WORLDVIEW OF IRAQI REGIME. HOPEFULLY, HUSSEIN MAY NOW BE LESS SUSPICIOUS OF USG INTENTIONS IN THE WAKE OF OUR RECENT INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. NEW U.S. ARMS POLICY, TO EXTEND IRAQIS ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT HONESTY OF OUR INTENTIONS AND TO EXTENT WE ARE ABLE TO TURN OUR INTENTIONS

INTO REALITY, SHOULD EVENTUALLY HELP IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS  
WITH IRAQ. IT IS CLEAR THAT SOME MEMBERS OF PLANNING  
COMMITTEE ARE DISTUBED NOT ONLY BY RELIANCE ON ARMS  
SUPPLIES FROM A BIG POWER WHICH DOES NOT NECESSARILY  
SHARE IRAQI OBJECTIVES BUT ALSO BY THE DRAIN THOSE  
ARMS PURCHASES ENTAIL FROM FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENTS.  
MACK

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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